

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-03 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 TAR-02 DRC-01 /136 W
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R 291730Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1209

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN CAP IMPORT PROTECTION FOR
POULTRY PRODUCTS

REF: A) STATE 159664; B) EC BRUSSELS 5603

SUMMARY: FRENCH OFFICIALS AT DREE AND MINAG HAVE BEEN
APPRISED OF US CONCERN WITH INCREASE OF EC POULTRY
LEVIES AND OF US APPROACH TO EC COMMISSION. EMPHASIS
WAS GIVEN TO POOR TIMING OF INCREASE, COMING ON
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HEELS OF US ACCOMMODATION FOR FRENCH COGNAC. DREE OF-

FICIAL, REFERRING TO EC "AUTOMATIC MECHANISMS", HAS
NEVERTHELESS UNDERTAKEN TO INFORM OTHER GOF EX-
PERTS; MINAG OFFICIAL WILL INVESTIGATE SITUATION.

1. CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS PARA 10, REF A, EMBASSY
OFFICERS MET ON JULY 26 WITH JEAN-CLAUDE PREVEL, NEW
OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR EC MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS IN THE
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY'S DREE (PREVEL, HAVING COMPLETED
TWO-YEAR STINT AS FRENCH ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR
IN TANANARIVE, HAS RETURNED TO DREE TO REPLACE GUY
DE PANAFIEU WHO INFORMED US HE WILL NOW BE CONCENTRATING
ON FINANCIAL AFFAIRS).

2. PREVEL DEMONSTRATED SOME FAMILIARITY WITH "CHICKEN
WAR", RECENT US ACTION ON COGNAC, AND CURRENT CHANGES IN
CAP FOR PROTECTING POULTRY (HE APPARENTLY HAD BEEN
BRIEFED BY YVES LAFAURIE, DREE AGRICULTURAL POLICY CHIEF,
WHO COULD NOT ATTEND MEETING).

3. PREVEL AGREED IT WAS UNFORTUNATE INDEED THAT IN-
CREASES IN EC GATE PRICES AND LEVIES ON POULTRY CAME AT
THIS TIME. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT INCREASES
WERE ENTIRELY DUE TO EC "AUTOMATIC MECHANISM" AND
SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS LACK OF GRATITUDE ON PART
OF GOF FOR US ACTION ON COGNAC; FRANCE, AS FAR AS HE
KNEW, WAS NOT SEEKING EC TURKEY MARKET (SEE PARA 6 BELOW
FOR ANOTHER VIEW).

4. WE TOLD PREVEL THAT RISES IN TURKEY LEVIES CAUSED BY
EC ACTION COULD HAVE DISASTROUS EFFECT ON US TURKEY
EXPORTS TO EC, ESPECIALLY TO FRG; WE EMPHASIZED THAT
SUCH AN OCCURRENCE WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE DELETERIOUS
EFFECT ON AGREEMENT TO LOOK AGAIN AT PAST TRADE ACTIONS
AND WOULD DO NOTHING FOR CLIMATE OF UP-COMING MTN.

5. RETREATING AGAIN TO "AUTOMATIC MECHANISM" DEFENSE
POSITION, PREVEL COMMENTED RAMIFICATIONS OF INCREASES
HAD PERHAPS NOT BEEN FORESEEN. HE UNDERTOOK TO INFORM
OTHER DREE OFFICIALS, IN PARTICULAR LAFAURIE, OF US
REQUEST TO COMMISSION TO POSTPONE IMPLEMENTATION OF
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AUGUST 1 PRICE LEVIES AND OF OUR GENERAL CONCERN WITH
STATE OF AFFAIRS FOLLOWING COGNAC ACTION. HOWEVER,
HE DID NOT APPEAR SANGUINE REGARDING POSSIBILITY
OF INEXORABLE TRIGGERING OF EC "AUTOMATIC MECHANISMS"
BEING SUPPRESSED. HE EXPRESSED SORROW THAT OUR FIRST
MEETING HAD TO BE ON A CONTENTIOUS SUBJECT. WE INDI-
CATED SIMILAR REGRETS AND ADDED THAT US VIEWS HAD
ALSO BEEN COMMUNICATED TO FRENCH MINAG AND EC COMMISSION

(REF B). WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WERE HOPEFUL FRENCH
IN THEIR ACTIVITIES IN BRUSSELS WOULD BE MORE
CONSIDERATE OF US SENSIBILITIES.

6. ACTING AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE HAD EXPRESSED US CONCERN
TO CORSON AT MINAG BY PHONE EARLIER. CORSON INITIALLY
SAID THAT FRANCE HAD EXCESS OF TURKEYS; INCLUDING
SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS STORAGE, AND IT WAS NATURAL TO
SELL SURPLUS IN EC MARKET. WHEN PRESSED THAT THIS
HAD BROADER EFFECT AND REMINDED IT WAS GOF WHO ASKED
FOR ACCOMMODATION ON COGNAC, CORSON AGREED TO
INVESTIGATE SITUATION AND INFORM ATTACHE'S OFFICE.

COMMENT: GOF (ESPECIALLY MINAG), STILL SMARTING UNDER
EC MISCALCULATIONS WHICH LED TO BEEF GLUT, COULD BE
PRESSURING COMMISSION TO SLOW DOWN TURKEY AND POULTRY
IMPORTS DUE TO GENUINE CONCERN WITH MARKET SITUATIONS
AND DESIRE TO HEAD OFF HISTORICAL REPEAT.
STONE

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